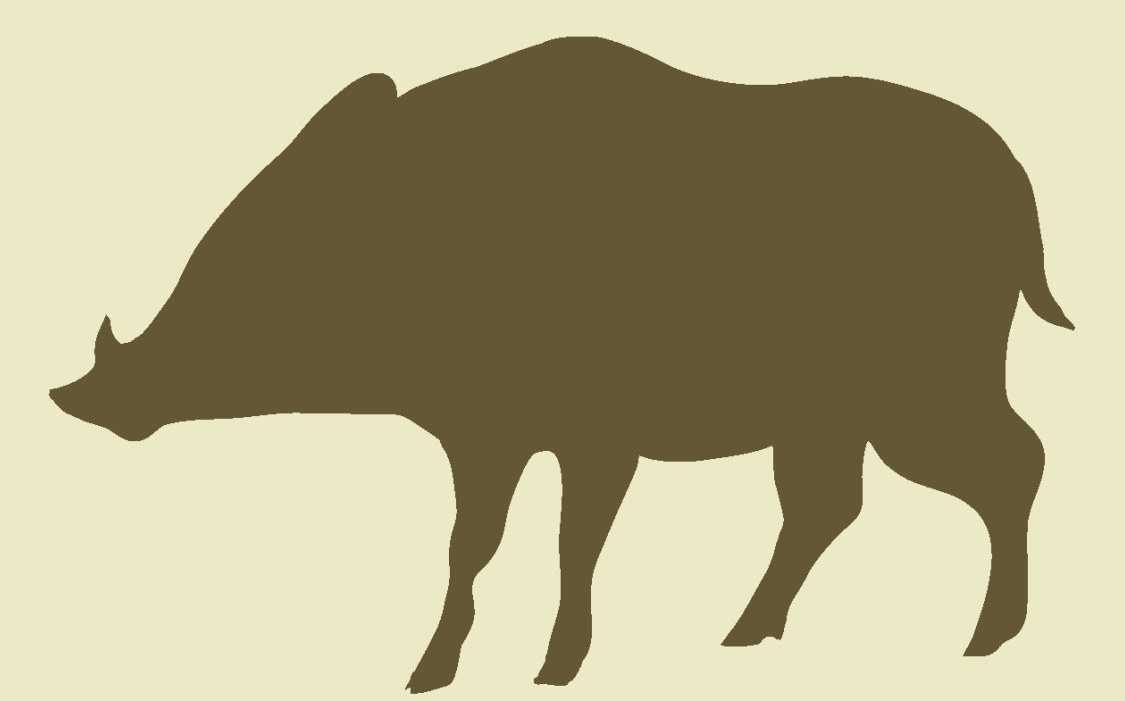


Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in Catalonia.

Analysis of the population high density.

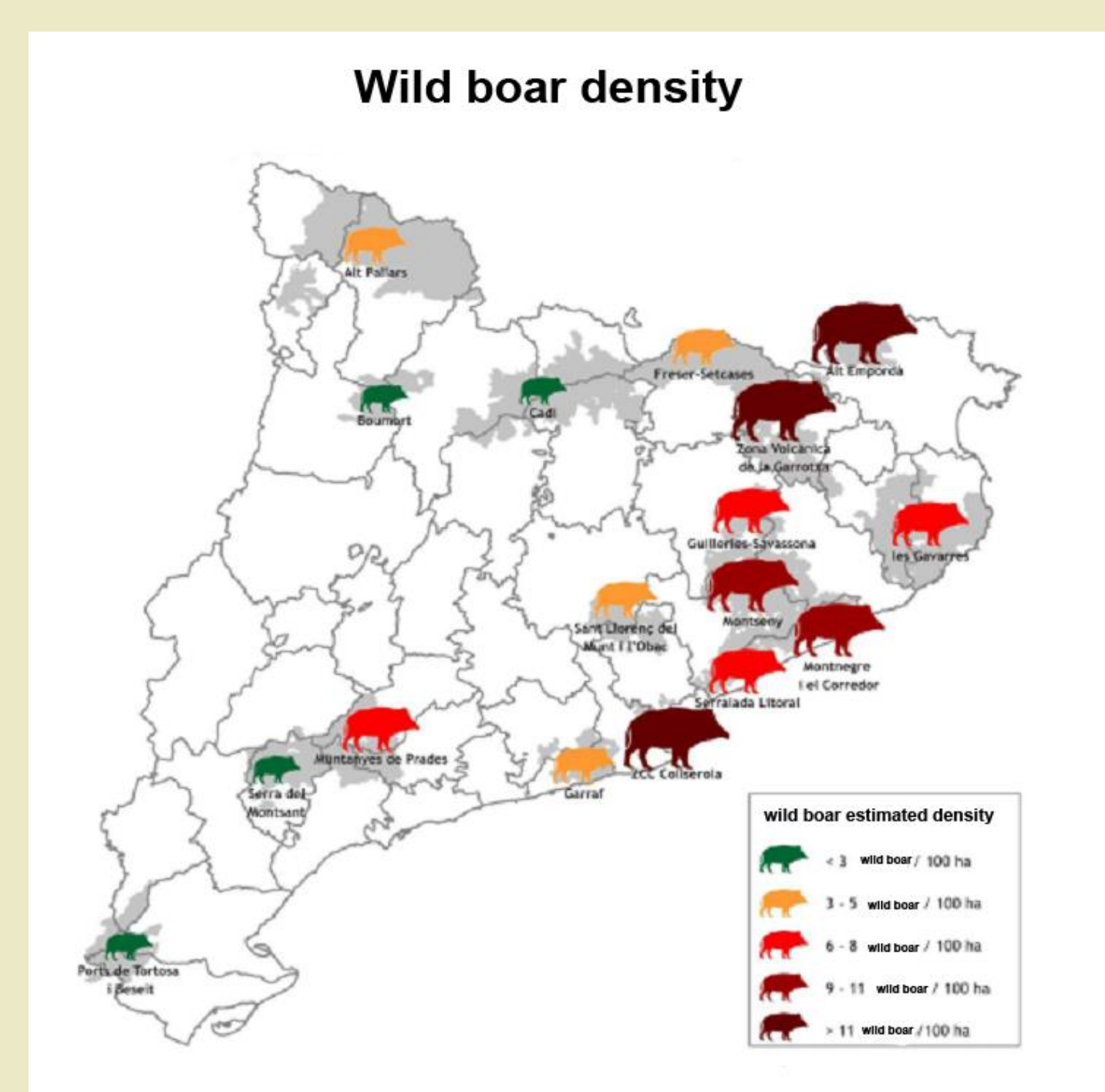
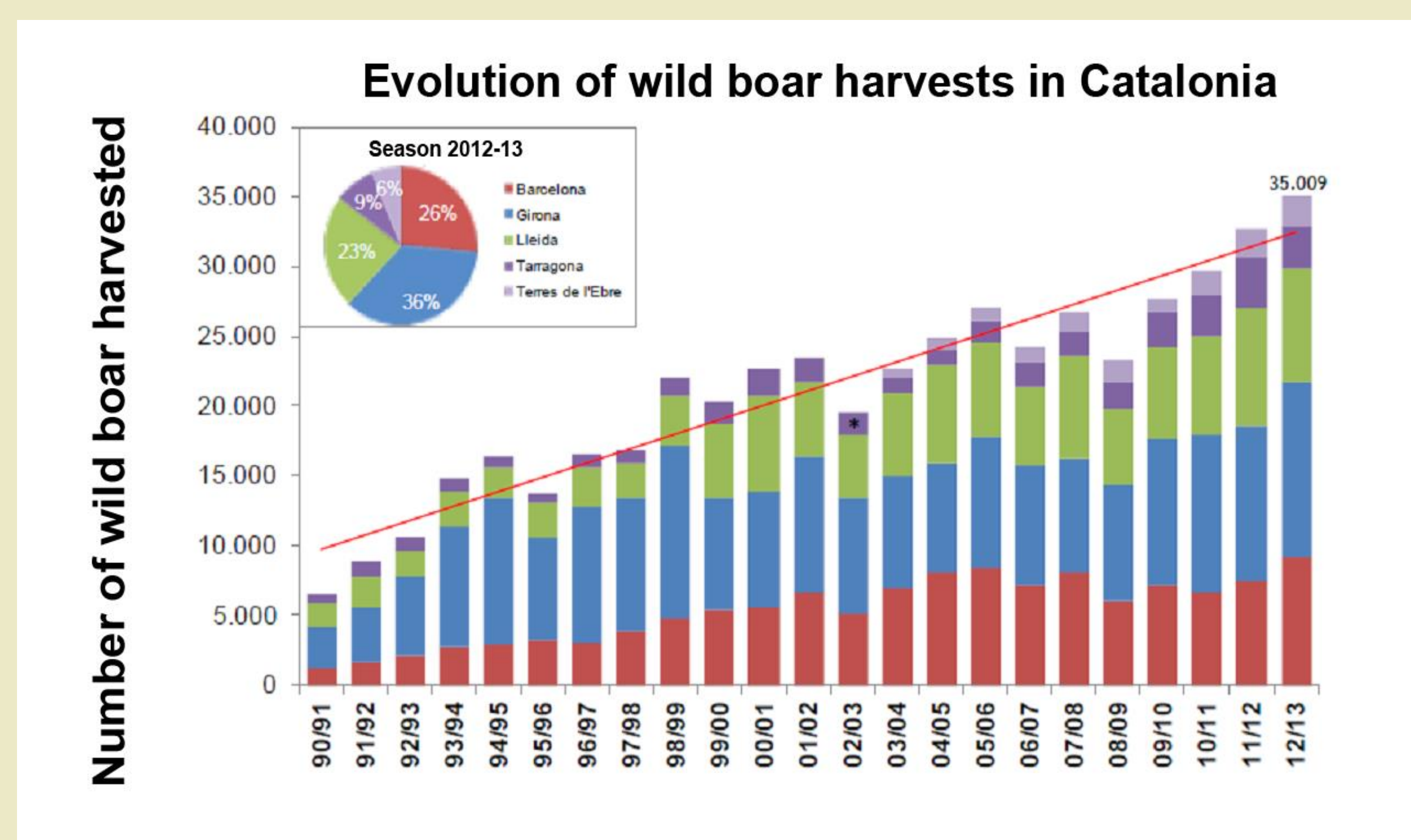


Introduction

There has been an increase in density of wild boar for the last 30 years. It has established in most of the catalan territories, from high anthropised cities to alpine meadows. It is due to:

- Change of land use.
- Eco-ethological features of the species.
- No natural predators.

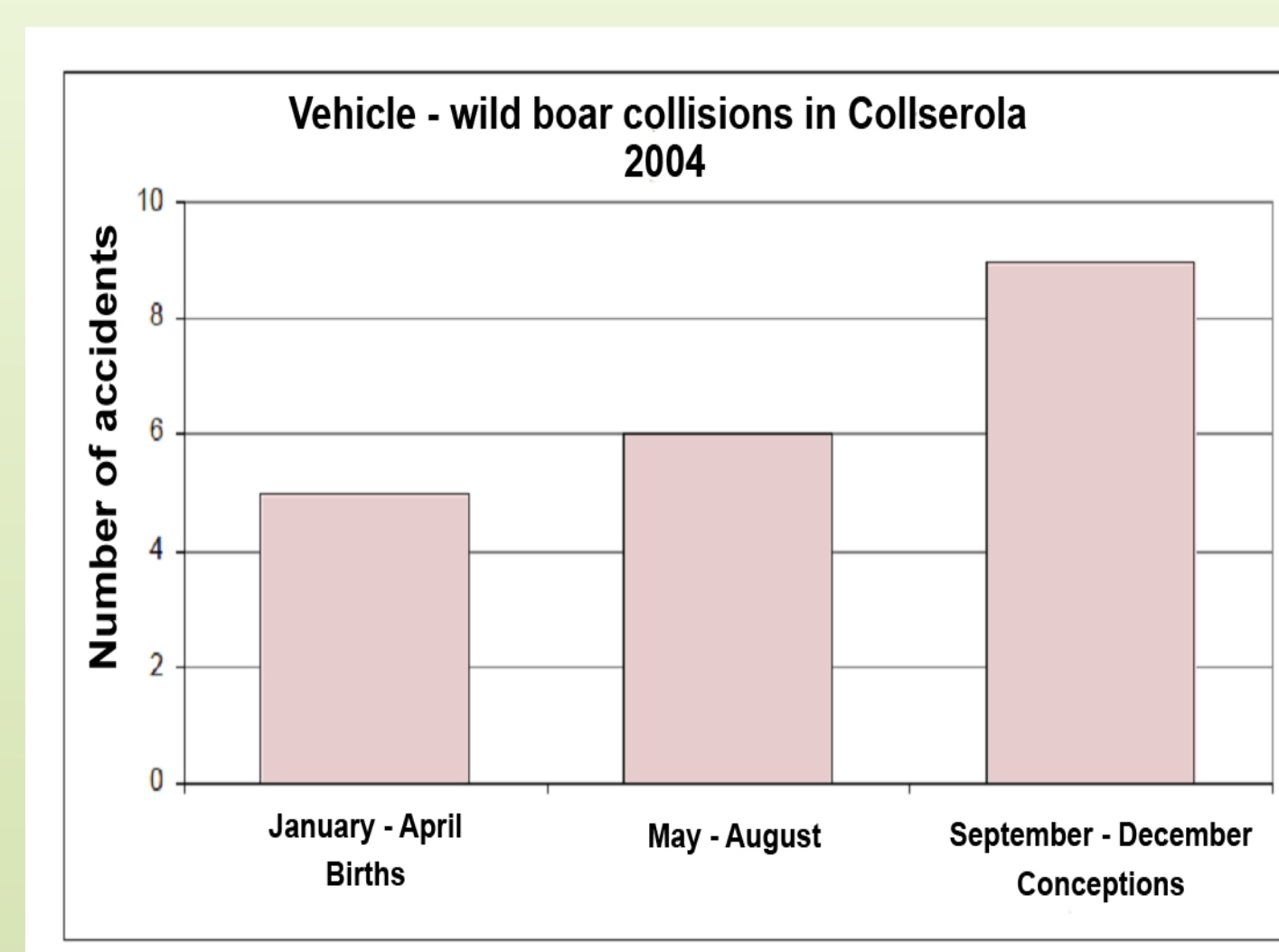
Actual situation and management



- Regions of north-Barcelona and Girona are the ones with the highest densities
- In mediterranean regions it is confirmed the “density-dependent hypothesis”: home-range size is inversely related to population density, whilst the amount of activity is directly density-related. In Collserola, with almost 1000 wild boar, some matriarcal groups are established near urban regions, where they are not hunted and can easily find food. This reduces the infant mortality.

Impacts

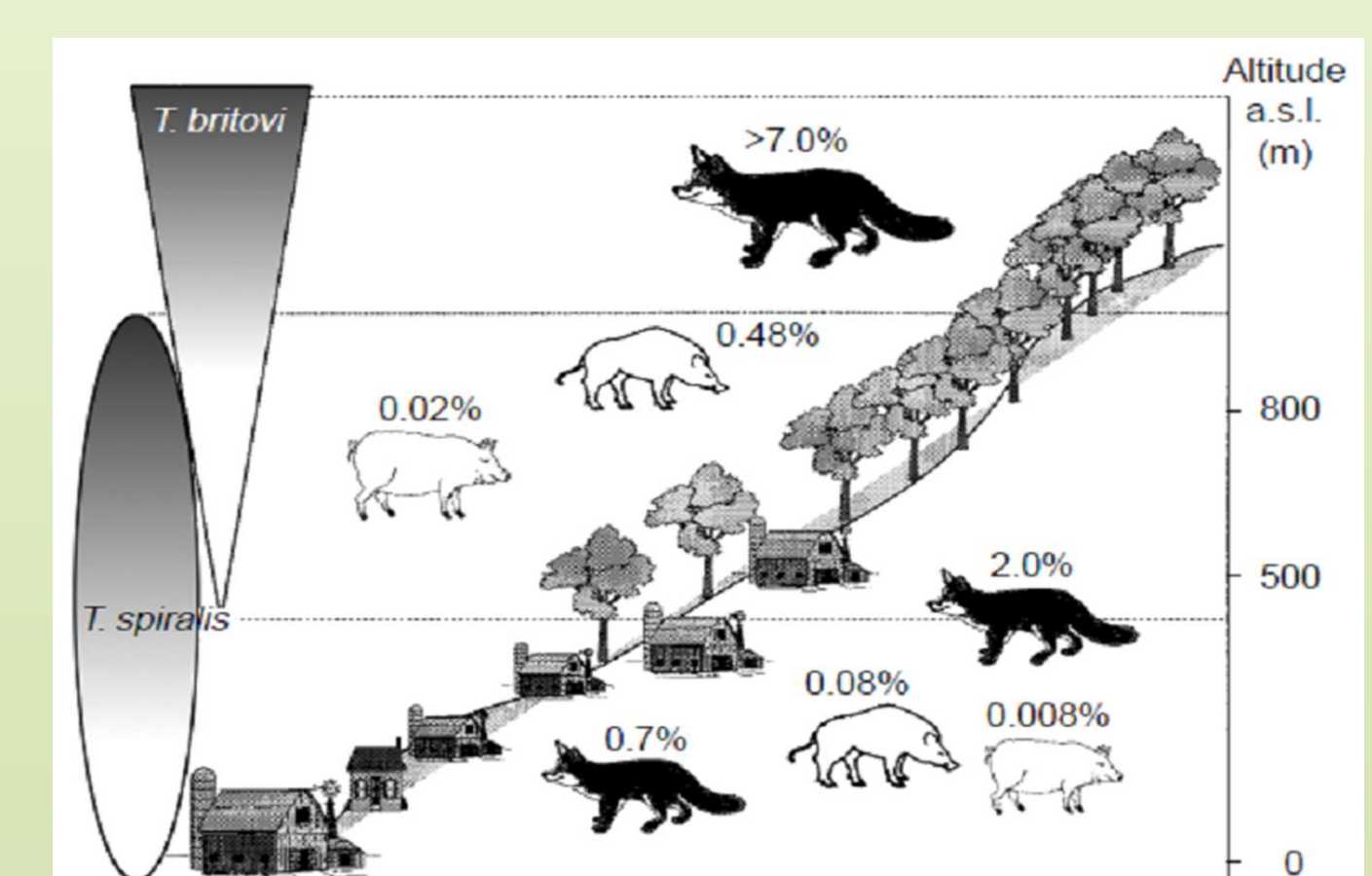
1. Collisions with vehicles



3. Fields and crops: the fact that where the highest wild boar densities happen is where they feed from crops throughout the year indicates that this increases the productivity of the species.

4. Hybridisation with domestic pig produces fertile offspring, and they are more prolific. After removing 50% of a wild boar population by hunting mortality, its growth rate will keep > 1 . With high hunting pressure, females invest more energy in early reproduction.

5. Zoonosis: *Trichinella* species. Freezing may not be enough to have *Trichinella*-free meat. Severe trichinellosis can produce death in humans.



6. Lead presence from ammunition in game meat. Cooking with acids as vinegar or white wine increases the lead bioaccessibility, with neurotoxic effects.

Conclusions

- It is not predictable that the population will stabilize.
- An alternative would be making selective hunting, avoiding the entrance of sub-adult females to the reproductive stock.
- The presence of wild boar with intermediate phenotypic characters indicates that release of hybrids happens in Catalonia.

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